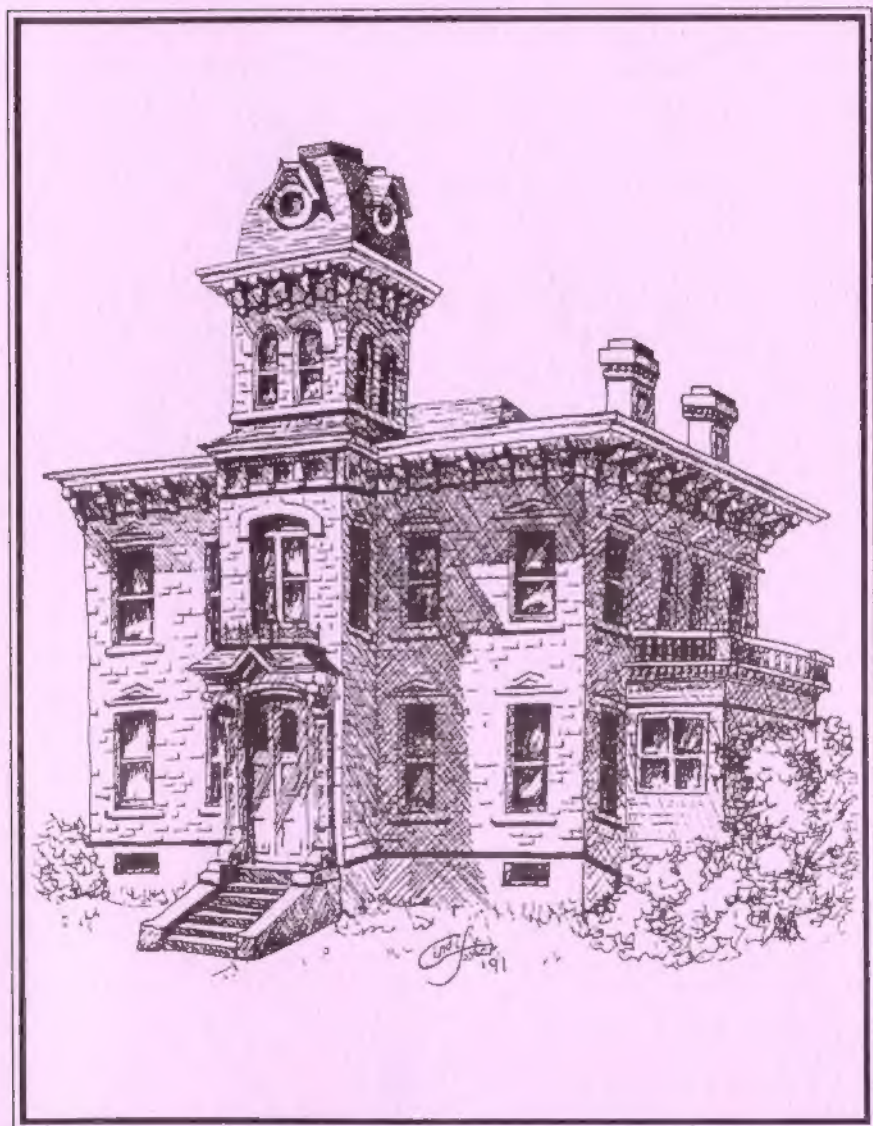


CHICAGO ADDITION WALKING TOUR

Rock Island, Illinois



Mitchell House, 1131 - 2nd Avenue

THE CHICAGO ADDITION

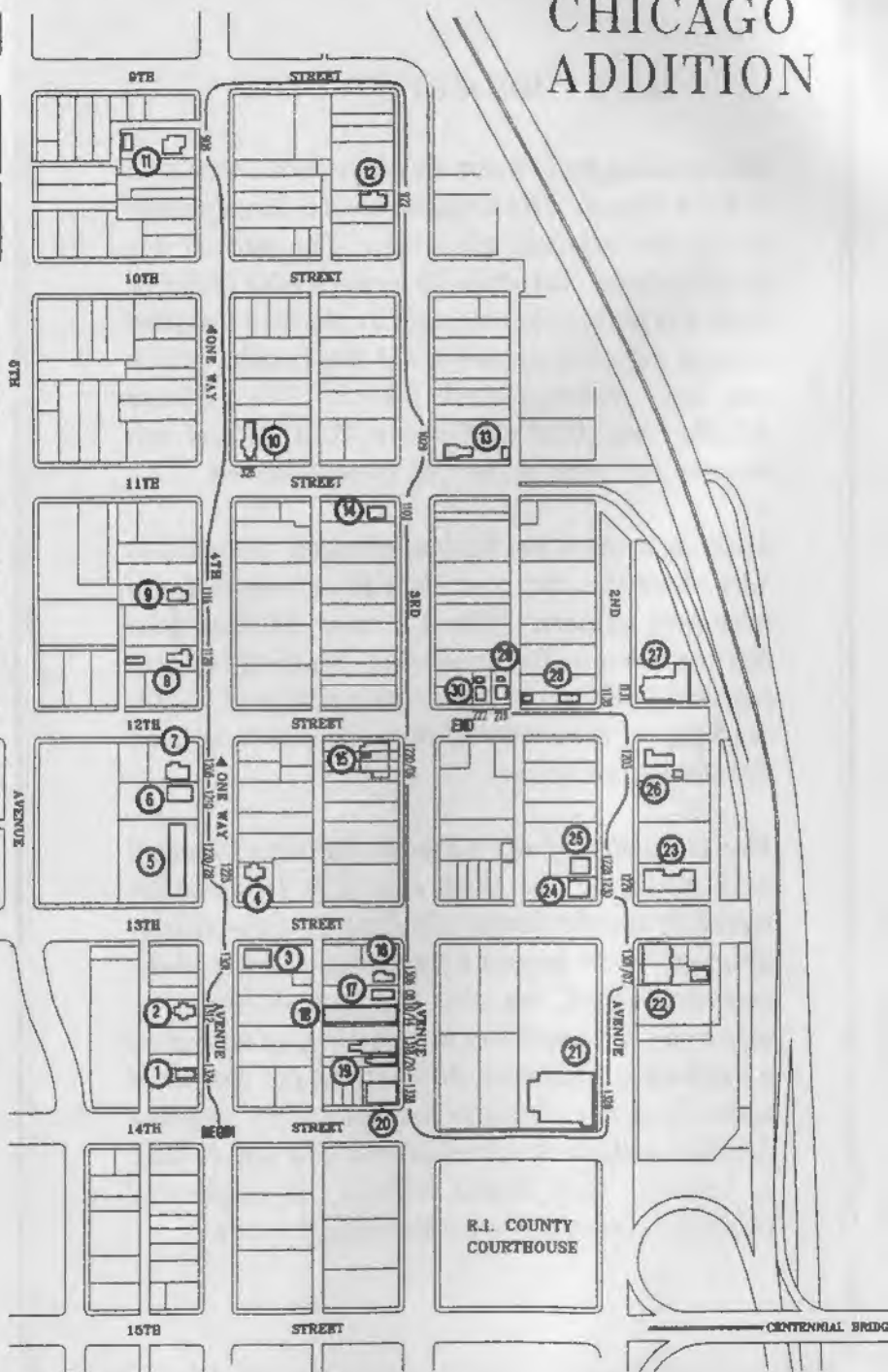
This walking tour covers the oldest residential area of Rock Island. The neighborhood is largely made up of two original additions. The part of the neighborhood that abuts the western edge of downtown was part of the original city plat that was filed on July 10, 1835 as part of old Stephenson, which was later renamed Rock Island. The Chicago Addition was filed on October 22, 1836 and was situated just west of the Old Town Addition.

Many prominent Rock Islanders made their homes here since the area was close to commercial and industrial centers. The Chicago Addition also boasted schools, fire protection, proximity to government buildings and the City's first park, Garnsey Square. A number of churches also located on this downtown fringe.

The character of the Chicago Addition changed abruptly in the late 1960s and early 1970s as the river levy and the Centennial Expressway were constructed. Some houses were moved as the roadway was constructed, but most were demolished. Private and City demolition has also had an impact on neighborhood housing, but many of the structures with very strong historical ties still remain. Anyone familiar with Rock Island history and names such as Mitchell, Gest, Negus, Schriver, Streckfus and Carse will enjoy this walk through the past.



CHICAGO ADDITION



1. 1324 4th Avenue (Ca. 1875)

A deed search of this parcel of land turned up ownership by several prominent residents of Rock Island. In 1836, the land was owned by Thompson, Judson and Wills. In fact, this parcel of land is described as lot 2, block 4 of the Thompson and Wills Addition. In 1853 the land appears to have been purchased by a group of men including Dr. Patrick Gregg, Joseph Conway and Napoleon B. and Temple Buford.

Dr. Gregg was born in Ireland in 1810, attended medical school in Philadelphia, was the first physician to open a private practice in Rock Island County in 1836, and was elected mayor of Rock Island in 1857. When the Civil War began, he raised a company of volunteers and went to the front as a captain of Company K, 55th Illinois Infantry. Taken prisoner at the Battle of Shiloh, he was held for six months before his release in a prisoner exchange. Upon returning to Rock Island, he resumed his practice at 1623 Second Avenue and also served as the post surgeon on the Arsenal, and Col. George Davenport's private physician. Remaining staunchly patriotic throughout his life, Dr. Gregg would mount the ladder and place a flag atop the soldiers' monument in Courthouse Square on Decoration Day every year until his death in 1892.



The Bufords were also one of the city's pioneer families. Napoleon B. was the son of Colonel John Buford, who opened the town's first store in 1838. Napoleon expanded the business to include a pork packing plant. Later he opened a large iron foundry at First Street and 16th Avenue and served on the board of the Rock Island and Peoria Railroad. He is even credited with founding Andalusia, purchasing the bankrupt "paper city" from a group of eastern land speculators.

An Italianate influenced vernacular structure, this house probably once possessed a porch, speculatively a full width one.

Note the segmental arch of header bricks above each window and the door transom. Stone sills make the base for the windows.

2. Trenkenschuh-Kautz House (Ca. 1895) 1312 4th Avenue

City directories in 1895 listed this as the residence of George G. Trenkenschuh. In 1910 it was the home of Frank and Minnie Kautz, owners of the Kautz and Moeller Livery located at 1608 - 1610 4th Avenue.



This home, a Free Classic Queen Anne, with a cross gabled roof, retains much of its architectural integrity from nearly a century ago.

3. 1301 - 1303 4th Avenue (Ca. 1900)

This lovely home was originally built as a duplex and two Rock Island businessmen claimed this as their residence. B. Irwin Hayes occupied 1303 in the early years of this home's history. Mr. Hayes was the co-owner of the clothier Gustafson and Hayes located at 1714 Second Avenue. 1301 was occupied by John Paden and his wife Mahala. City directories list Mr. Paden's occupation as a rug manufacturer.

This Spindlework Queen Anne is largely intact. Of particular interest is the bay window. Note the heavily carved segmental arched hood above the window with the Eastlake decoration. The bead board type panels below the window display heavy Stick-style influence in the applied geometric design.



4. 1225 4th Avenue (Ca. 1890)

An opulent house at the time of construction, this home had original owners named William and F. E. Jordan. Unfortunately, little is known about the Jordans. By the time the 20's came, the Charles S. Bradys lived here. It is believed that Brady operated the Brady Waxenberg Department Store in downtown Rock Island.

With the coming of the Great Depression, Bessie and William Sweeney claimed their home here. The Sweeneys were of some note socially and politically in Rock



Island. Mr. Sweeney was an ex-tuant officer and a toll collector on the Rock Island to Milan bridge. He ran for mayor in 1876 (unsuccessfully). His wife, Bessie, was the President of Bethany Home.

This home undoubtedly is one of the best extant examples of Spindlework Queen Annes in the city of Rock Island. It offers a rich abundance of applied decorations with a number of variations in the texture of the outside of the house. The front gable contains a crown-like window with a diamond pro-

truding out of the top. The second story picture window has two pediments above it, both highly carved, with a circle in the center. The segmental arched hood above the first floor picture window has ornate, vine-like carving inside it.

5. 1220/28 4th Avenue (Ca. 1905)

Long before this early apartment building was thought of, A. G., J.W. and William Brackett acquired the land where this structure stands in 1854. These colorful Rock Island pioneers, particularly J.W., are certainly worth a quick study.

J.W. Brackett served in the U.S. Navy as a midshipman in 1831 aboard the sloop "Falmouth." That ship, under the direction of Captain James Ward, was engaged in the suppression of piracy in the West Indies. In 1836, J.W. resigned from the navy to study law in his home town of Cherry Valley, New York. Coming to Rock Island in 1849, J. W. was preceded by his brothers, Captain John Ely Brackett, Dr. James W. Brackett, William Brackett and Col. Albert G. Brackett. All of his brothers had come to what was then "the new west" to make their homes. J.W. also played a salient part in early California history, participating in many of the

historical events leading up to the admission of California into the Union.

At the Civil War's outbreak, J.W. Brackett served as a lieutenant for the Union in the 9th Illinois Calvary. In 1887, J. W. went on an expedition to Yellowstone Park for two weeks to assist Lt. Schwatka (probably his son-in-law) prepare a series of illustrated articles on the national park during the winter. This series was later published in Century Magazine and became known as the Schwatka Expedition.

Although these townhouse apartments do not fall into strict architectural styles, this elongated building has four steeply pitched gables extending from a basically



hipped roof and certainly has some Free Classic Queen Anne features. The eaves have exaggerated dentil moldings, a common classical motif.

6. 1210 4th Avenue (Ca. 1874)

Marcus B. and Eliza Osborn were the first owners of this land. They lived in Rock Island during the years 1845 through 1871. Mr. Osborn was active in the insurance and lumber business. He also helped in the organization of banks, telegraph companies, gas companies and the Rock Island Public Library. In 1870, Mr. Osborn was encouraged to run for mayor but declined because his temperance principles would not allow him to sign a license to sell liquor. In 1870 he moved west for health reasons.



It was at this time that ownership of the property changed to the Koch family, who probably owned the land when this structure was built. Turn-of-the-century residents of the home include William and Mary McDonald and William and Augusta Guldenzopf.

This simple, vernacular brick home shows very strong Italianate influences, but lacks some essential elements for a high-style residence.

Like the related Italianate style, this house has heavily bracketed, elliptical arched windows, and an oculus in the front gable. The keystones projecting from the crowns (hoods) are also related to the Italianate style. However, this house lacks brackets and the eaves are probably too narrow to accommodate ones of reasonable size.

7. Rochow House (Ca. 1900) 1206 4th Avenue

An immigrant "made good" was the first owner of this once opulent home. Carl Rochow was a self-made man. Born in Pearsberg, Prussia (Germany) in 1850, he initially settled in Davenport when he came to this country in 1871. His first job was at the Sickels & Preston Company in Davenport. In 1881, he became the manager of the Mill Store at Fourth Avenue and Third Street, where he worked until he retired in 1904.



This home, built at or near the turn of the century, exemplifies late Queen Anne architecture. Note the Palladian window in the front gable, a classical element added to some later Queen Anne houses.

8. Folsom House (Ca. 1860) 1128 4th Avenue

Deed searches indicate the Folsom family was at this location by 1868 and probably prior. Nathaniel Folsom is the first owner of record and was a



lightning rod manufacturer between Otter (11th Street) and Swan (12th Street).

The house subsequently passed to one of his relatives, Henry D. Folsom, who probably resided here until 1915. Mr. Folsom ran a jewelry store bearing his name in the 1700 block of Second Avenue. After selling

this business, Mr. Folsom managed the jewelry department of Harned Von Maur department store in Davenport and later affiliated himself with the M.L.

Parker Company at Second and Brady Street in Davenport. Mr. Folsom proved an ardent member of Central Presbyterian Church, serving as choir leader and superintendent of the Sunday School.

This house is an example of an "I-House" (two rooms wide and one deep). The fanciful porch and balcony were added in the 1880's or 90's as the Eastlake style became popular. The porch with its fishscale siding, small windows surrounded by a larger pane, and dichotomy of textures is especially Eastlake in nature as is the balcony directly above it.



9. Carse House (Ca. 1880) 1116 4th Avenue

This was the home of Henry and Mary (Wright) Carse and their eight children. Henry Carse was born in Ireland on September 28, 1841 and at the age of seven was brought to this country by his parents, who settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It was there that he learned the

bottling business, and when he came to Rock Island in 1868, he started a small soda water factory with partner John Elder. In 1873 John Ohlweiler became a member of the firm and the name was changed to Carse and Ohlweiler, the name under which the company would continue for over fifty years.

It was in 1870 that Carse purchased property on 11th Street between 4th and 5th Avenues where a

new factory was to be located. At the time of purchase, this area was described as more or less a swamp. But the land was filled, the factory built, and the company went on to bottle at least 11 beverages, including a regional favorite, Black Hawk ginger ale. In 1877 two additional lots were purchased adjoining and extending north from the factory. This block-deep parcel of land fronting on 4th Avenue was to become the site of the family home.

Mr. Carse first held public office in Rock Island in 1874, when he was elected alderman from the First Ward. In 1880 he was elected Mayor for a one-year term. It was in this year that the term of mayor was increased from one to two years and Mayor Carse was re-elected in 1881 to serve a two year term. It was during his administration that the water works were moved from the foot of 7th Street to its present location at the foot of 24th Street. And it was while Mr. Carse was an

alderman that he introduced the resolution that changed the names of the streets and avenues to the numbered system we have today.

This home introduces you to another housing style popular nationally from 1860 to 1890 and more common locally during the last half of that period: the Stick style. The style is largely identified by decorative trusses in the steeply pitched front gable. Note the oval window with decorative millwork surrounds.

10. 328 11th Street (Ca. 1902)

This southern half of a larger lot was sold to James and Mary O'Connor in 1902, and this house was probably built at that time. Mr. O'Connor was first employed at and later the proprietor of the Bismarck Saloon that was located at 1816 2nd Avenue.

The house before us is a true eclectic blending of many styles. The cross-gambrel roofs are very unusual locally and another example likely does not exist in Rock Island. Front-facing gambrel houses were common from 1890 until 1920.



The house before us also has definite Italianate overtones. The windows with their full and segmental arches forming the brick window surrounds are very Italianate in flavor. The brackets in the south side bay window also afford the same feeling. However, bracketing at the eave line, so typical in Italianate houses, is absent.

11. Streckfus House (Ca. 1871) 908 4th Avenue

A true example of a preservation success story, this local landmark home was built for Balthazar and Ann Streckfus around 1871. Mr. Streckfus came to Rock Island County in 1852 and is listed in the 1873 city directory as operating a wagon shop on the southeast corner of Rock River and Exchange, the lot just to the west of the house. He and his wife had several sons including John, who from his earliest years had a "hankering after steamboats." Beginning with Captain John's 1884 purchase of a small craft, The Freddie, the Streckfus Steamers fleet would grow to be the largest excursion company on the Mississippi River, spanning more than 9 decades and introducing Dixieland music to 14 states.

The Streckfus family occupied this home until 1891. A series of owners and occupants followed, including William Roth, who was president and treasurer of Variety (Rock Island) Wood Works, and Henry Brown, who operated a funeral home business here until the late 1960's.



The structure was sitting vacant and decaying and was finally purchased in 1970 by Lyle Scheff. Intending to raze the building, Mr. Scheff put up a sign on the home's front lawn offering its insides free for the taking. In no time the house was stripped of staircases, radiators and light fixtures. It was at this point that neighbors became concerned, and with a rezoning application for the property under consideration, they joined forces with city officials to take action. The result was an innovative trade of city-owned land more suitable for commercial development in exchange for this historic home. The City then offered the property to the community, accepting bids, which had to include plans for the use of the structure, from individuals and corporations. In 1980 the property was sold to Dorothy and Arthur Mayne, who are responsible for the beautiful restoration you see before you today.

This home is an example of Italianate architecture from the early 1870's combined with a Queen Anne style third story and an Eastlake porch from the 1890's. The gabled portion of the front view of the house has a decorative "X" element below the triple attic windows. Note the simple hoods over the windows--an Italianate feature. Looking at the bay window on the west side, note the decorative brick work between the first and second stories as well as the sunburst design in the bracket hanging from the eaves of the bay formation.

12. Heimbeck - Baker House (Ca. 1900)

922 3rd Avenue

The Heimbeck family were early residents of this property. Mr. August Heimbeck ran Heimbeck Drug Store at 924 Fourth Avenue, the adjoining property and simple

clapboard structure which looks like a storefront.

The most noted of the Heimbeck family was Thekla Heimbeck Baker. Mrs. Baker married George R. Baker in 1921, and it is believed they resided here the first few years of their marriage. Mrs. Baker was a long-time member of Trinity Episcopal Church. In addition, her civic and social memberships included Music Students Club, Etude Club, Rock Island Fine Arts Guild, past president of B.K. Peo Sisterhood, Silver Cross Circle of King's Daughters, and the Rock Island American Legion Post Auxiliary. Mrs. Baker studied piano under Alice Atwill in Davenport.



Surprisingly intact, this is a quintessential example of a Queen Anne style house. Note the interesting wavy-line millwork applied to the outside of the house frame and the applied millwork in a checkerboard design frieze above the porch. The porch itself is the true hallmark of this home. Its decorative frieze, interesting arched supports between the columns and the frieze (spandrels), the porch posts, and the balustrade (railing) offer a stunning effect.

13. Schriver House (Ca. 1867) 1029 3rd Avenue

An early resident of this stellar Italianate includes a mayor of Rock Island, Harry Schriver. He was the first mayor under the new commission form of government, being elected in 1911 and serving the citizenry of Rock Island much of that decade.



During Schriver's term in office, the notorious John Looney was active in Rock Island. Looney, the publisher of the News, printed a scandalous article headlined "Schriver's Shame! Spent Night and Day in Peoria in Filthy Debauch with Ethel: Deeds that Would Shame a Dog." The slanderous story which followed had Schriver in and around hotels, saloons, brothels and prostitutes. With the publication of this story, Schriver had all 18 newsboys arrested and their papers confiscated. The police found Looney and delivered him to the Mayor's office where Looney was beaten so severely as to require an extended stay at St. Anthony's Hospital.

The following day, Looney followers supposedly organized a political rally for Harry McCaskrin, a lawyer and News writer running for State's Attorney. As it turned out, McCaskrin's fiery speech became a personal attack on Mayor Schriver, and a riot broke out in downtown Rock Island. The sheriff, panicked by the two innocent bystanders who were slain and dozens of others who were wounded, phoned Illinois Governor Charles Deneen, who immediately declared martial law and called out 600 National Guardsmen. The militia remained in Rock Island until after the primary election in April.

This stunning Italianate is of the centered gable sub-type. Of particular note are the modillion blocks projecting from the eaves. The current paint job accentuates the quoining on the corners of the building, an effect emulating stone. The shutters on many of the windows are probably original as is the small entry porch which is heavily bracketed and ornate. Note the centered pendant. The elliptical shaped window openings frame two semi-circular window segments, a less common treatment than the hooded or bracketed crowns seen on other extant Italianate houses in this area.

14. Hawes House (Ca. 1875)

1102 3rd Avenue

In the late 1870's this was the family home of David and Susan (Arnold) Hawes. City directories list Mr. Hawes' occupation as justice of the peace and collecting agent. He was born and raised in Massachusetts, making his way to St. Louis in 1835, and Rock Island in 1837. His business interests included proprietorship of the Rock Island House and a grocery store, serving the United States government as a gauger (one who gauges, measures size or dimensions or checks



for conformity to specifications). In his public career he served as a member of the city council for two terms, was coroner for twelve years, sheriff for two years, and justice of the peace for over sixteen years.

By the turn of the century, this home was occupied by Albert Owen, who emigrated from England. He worked as a glass blower at United Glass Company, which was located between 2nd and 3rd Avenues and 4th and 5th Streets.

This hipped-roof Italianate possesses the roof and bay brackets distinctive to the style. The windows are double hung and are referred to as six over six, meaning there are six panes over six panes. The front porch is not original. Simple Tuscan, classical columns were not common until near the century's turn. Originally, this house probably had a full-width porch with chamfered columns.

15. 1200 -1206 3rd Avenue (Ca. 1880)

At the turn of the century Louis Requa owned this apartment structure and lived at the corner address. Over the years, the tenements were occupied by a variety of persons and families with equally varied occupations. Miss Randeline Requa was a principal at School No. 2; Emily Freeman and Emelia DeSanto taught at School No.1; Milton Iglehart was the proprietor of City Marble Works; Timothy Webb was a saw maker at D. Donaldson Saw Works; Marion E. Sweeney was a lawyer with an office in the Mitchell & Lynde Block; Frank Simmons was a carpenter for Hudson & Parker Contract Builders; Mrs. Hannah Freeman and Matilda Richmond were widows; Benjamin & Abraham Cohn ran a family grocery in the 1400 block of 2nd Avenue; Daniel Wright was an engineer on the C B & Q Railroad.



The proximity of this working class housing to the commercial structures across the street, the nearby school and the grand homes just one block away, serves as a reminder of the economic and cultural diversity of this neighborhood at the turn of the century.

Italianate in style, brackets and perhaps a metal cornice are missing from this early

townhouse. The windows have heavy cast iron pedimented crowns with a decorative motif. All of the exterior windows are similarly treated.

The window type on this structure is referred to as six over six, meaning there are six panes (lights) over six panes. Normally, the older the building, the more lights there are in each half of a double hung window.



16. Gall House (Ca. 1895) 1306 3rd Avenue

William D. Gall, a life-long resident of Rock Island, was born at this address in 1863 and died here 60 years later. He married Pauline Strohm in 1895 in Milwaukee, a social event of sufficient prominence to be reported in the local paper, and the couple moved into the family home. Mr. Gall was employed as a saw maker at Donaldson's Saw Works, and often traveled throughout the country working on special projects for the company.

This property is a cross-gabled Queen Anne with excellent Eastlake detailing. Looking at the house front-on, in the gable, note the horizontal board with its decorative brackets above the attic window. As your eye falls, look carefully at the very elaborate porch. Note the ornate brackets, the carved frieze (area at the top of the porch), which possesses spindlework, and the turned porch posts. Even the simple balustrade probably dates from nearly a century ago.



17. Parker House (Ca. 1895) 1308 3rd Avenue

Researching the early history of this structure provided references to ownership by Lydia Parker

(associated with Parker Laundry) as early as the turn of the century. Documentation of an actual owner of the house ever living here could not be found. Early residents include J. Frank Clark, Anna and Lemuel Fairchild, and Bernhardt Pabst. The Sanborn maps of this block indicate that this particular structure was built between 1892 and 1906.

This home is a simpler Queen Anne, but for a small house it retains a large amount of architectural integrity. The porch on this property is probably original. The picture window is very reflective of a Queen Anne window. Small panes of colored (or clear) glass act as the surround for a larger piece of glass forming the center of the window. Frequently, these are referred to as Queen Anne windows.

18. Parker Laundry (Ca. 1906)

1310/14 3rd Avenue

The buildings that today make up Parker Laundry were originally three separate structures. The frame structure at 1310 was a neighborhood grocery. 1312 and 1314 were originally separate, Italianate storefronts, which have been remodeled.

The business was founded in 1888 by Albert, Hannah and Lydia Parker, and their trade was primarily collars and cuffs. In its earliest years, it op-



erated out of the basement of the Como Hotel. Then in 1906 the business moved into the storefront at 1312. In 1910, the company purchased an electric truck used to pick up and deliver. The truck would run for 50 miles and more than once, a team of horses had to be sent out to pull the stalled truck back to the laundry. Another obstacle in the early 1900's was the city-supplied water. It was not clean enough for use in the laundry and Mr. Parker used unglazed bricks in a pool arrangement to cleanse out impurities. By 1912, the laundry had quadrupled in its floor space and was doing practically all the hotel and restaurant work in the city. The laundry's average daily output was from eight to ten thousand pieces.

19. 1318 - 1320 3rd Avenue (Ca. 1890)

Mitsch's 5 & 10 Cent Store occupied this building in 1894. The store, which carried a full line of china, glass, queensware, tinware, cutlery, lamp shades, children's toys, etc., was owned and operated by Mrs. Catherine Mitsch, possibly one of Rock Island's pioneer business women. As further evidence of Mrs. Mitsch's international view of commerce, two small pieces of china clearly marked as manufactured in Germany for C. Mitsch, remain in the family. They are commemorative pieces that feature a picture of the Rock Island County Courthouse. As was common at the time, the Mitsch family lived above the store.



This Romanesque Revival structure is one of the few still standing in Rock Island today. Notice the patterning of brick in the front gable, along the roofline, and in the now altered large, central window. This is a common Romanesque Revival feature.

20. Wayman A.M.E. Church (Ca. 1874) 1328 3rd Avenue

In 1855 there were three Presbyterian church buildings within a three block area by the County Courthouse. The first Presbyterian Church stood on 2nd Avenue and 13th Street where St. Joseph's Church now stands. The Second Presbyterian Church stood on the north side of 2nd Avenue, across from the courthouse in the area that now serves as the exit from Centennial Bridge. The two congregations differed on questions of theology and slavery, First Presbyterian representing the Old School and



Second Presbyterian representing the New School. Here on this corner, a third Presbyterian church, called United Presbyterian, was built by a Covenanters congregation that had previously met at the schoolhouse a block to the west. The original church was a frame structure that was moved to 5th Avenue and 11th Street in 1874, where it was used by a German Presbyterian congregation. It was in that year, 1874, that this brick structure was built.

In 1870 the Old School and New School Presbyterian churches merged and decided to sell either one or the other of the two church buildings. Shortly after the merger, the first church building was sold to St. Joseph's Catholic Church for \$9,000. This building was sold in 1947. The building was purchased by the congregation of the Wayman African Methodist Episcopal Church, which was founded in 1900 by Rev. J.J. Handy and had previously held services at 517 13th Street.

21. St. Joseph's Catholic Church (Ca. 1857) 1328 2nd Avenue

As early as 1840 there were enough Catholics in the City of Rock Island to start a parish and Fr. John Alleman came to the area for just such a purpose. He led his people in services at the Beierlein's Cooper Shop after the cooper, a devout Lutheran, stacked the barrels out of the way.

By 1852 the first Catholic church in the city was constructed. Known as St. James, it was built of stone quarried from the site on which it stood.

At that time, Rock Island, like many communities, was very ethnic in origin. By 1874 the German speaking folks remained at St. James, renaming it St. Mary's. The English speaking congregants bought the former First Presbyterian Church located at Second Avenue and 14th Street. They were fortunate to acquire the 17 year old building for only \$9,000 when it cost \$22,000 to construct. The building has now housed St. Joseph's Catholic Church for over a century.

In 1877 the Peoria diocese was established and Bishop John Lancaster Spaulding named Father Thomas Mackin to pastor St. Joseph's. Father Mackin has many



accomplishments to his credit, including the bringing of the Franciscan Sisters, founders of St. Anthony's Hospital. He was also involved in the development of the Villa de Chantal School and establishing a parish grade school and later a high school in the nearby Buford House.

22. Negus Row House (Ca. 1874)

1301/07 2nd Avenue

"Mr. John Volk, contractor, has nearly finished an elegant brick block on Illinois Street for Mr. Isaac Negus. The buildings are for rent, four in number, joined together, and, in the aggregate, fifty feet deep from front to back, and eighty feet long from east to west. The block is two stories high, twenty-five feet under mansard roof, fronts the south, and has projections, three on the front and three on the sides, extending from the ground up, both stories, for bay windows. The foundation is stone. Total cost is \$15,000. The ground is valued at \$40 per square foot."



This paragraph appeared in the November 6, 1874 edition of the Review. Row houses, or tenements as they were called, were the apartment houses of 100 years ago. Early tenants of the building included Rock Island Arsenal employees William Eggleston, A.T. and Malvina Totten, and James Syrett; George Price, employee at the Boston Shoe Store; Rev. Carlton Taylor, pastor of the First Baptist Church; Dr. Charles Manning, proprietor of Economy Dental Parlors; and 29 year old Charles W. Negus, son of the building's owner.

Charles Negus, who grew up in the family home just across the street to the west, was to become a well respected businessman and public servant in his own right before his death at the age of 55. He and his wife Ida (Meyers) had one son, Charles Drake, and the family became an integral part of this neighborhood, building a home that stood at 1123 3rd Ave. Mr. Negus served as an alderman from the third ward between 1888 and 1890, and in partnership with his brother, managed the Rock Island House hotel at 1629 2nd Avenue and later, independently, a livery business.

Although built as four large, palatial units, this 1874 townhouse strongly emulates the Second Empire style of architecture popular in America at that time. It is distinguished by a mansard roof.

23. Negus Flats (Ca. 1855) 1229 2nd Avenue

This was the family home of Isaac Negus. Early city directories list the occupation of Mr. Negus as a capitalist. He was 45 years of age when he moved to Rock Island in 1844 after having supervised a large group of men working on the Illinois and Michigan Canal. He initially ran a mercantile business here, then became a member of the banking firm of Mann, Negus, & Lee, and finally gave his full attention to building up Rock Island, being one of the predominant property owners in the city at that time.



By 1905, Isaac's son William had inherited the family home. With the help of contractor Frank Simmons, he added to the rear of the house and then converted the structure into Rock Island's first actual apartment building.

The Negus Flats, as it was called, contained four luxury apartments each with ten rooms and two bathrooms. A "car stable", another first for Rock Island, was also constructed on the site. For more than 5 years after its conversion, the Negus Flats remained the only apartment building in Rock Island that catered to people who could afford to live in something other than apartments if they chose to do so.

This home exudes the qualities that many wanted over a century ago when this brick Italianate home was built. The segmental arch over the windows has a simple keystone projecting away from the window below it. Undoubtedly, the cornice was lined with ornate brackets which were probably paired. The front door was probably a double door with a heavy carved wood surround and a semi-circular transom window.

24. 1230 2nd Avenue (Ca. 1895)

Conceivably, this once clapboard Queen Anne was originally occupied by its carpenter-builder, William Nesbitt in about 1895. By 1897, Nesbitt had sold the property to Frank Bahnsen, the vice president of Hartz and Bahnsen Company, a

wholesale drug company located at 226-30 19th Street.

As the century turned, the property was occupied by the family of Meyer Loeb, who reportedly was a traveling salesman. Mr. Loeb was in his 30's when he



resided at this residence and a newlywed. His father, Abraham Loeb, ran a clothing store in the Mitchell & Lynde building.

By the middle teens, the property had again changed hands, this time to James T. O'Connor and his wife Mary. Mr. O'Connor was probably the proprietor of the O'Connor Saloon at 221 20th Street.

The large gable contains a Palladian window. Of special interest is the way the keystone actually is contained within the frame of the Palladian window and does not protrude away from the frame, which is the more common placement.

Two bay windows are prominent on this home. One is directly under the front gable on the first floor and the other is located above the front porch.

25. Bowlby House **(Ca. 1900)** **1228 2nd Avenue**

In the year 1905, this was the family home of Samuel T. and Jennie Bowlby. Mr. Bowlby, who was born in Ripleyville, Ohio, came to Rock Island in 1880 and earned his living as a teacher of piano, voice, mandolin and guitar. In addition, he served as a church organist and contributed his



musical talents to many civic enterprises.

This home is a Free Classic Queen Anne of the front gabled variety. The front gable form is especially well suited for urban lots.

This house possesses a dominant front gable and then a lesser one on the eastern side of the front facade. The porch is typical for a Free Classic Queen Anne in that it has Tuscan columns in groupings of three.

26. Gest House (Ca. 1851)

1203 2nd Avenue

Believed to be the oldest of the houses featured on this tour, this stunning Italianate was the home of famous Rock Islander, William Gest. Born in Jacksonville, Illinois, Gest moved to Rock Island in 1842 when he was four.

After graduating from Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts in 1860, Gest taught school in one of the Mercer County hamlets named Millersburg and while there purportedly cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln. Later he "read law" in the office of Wilkinson & Peasants. By the summer of 1862, he was admitted to the bar and opened an office in the Federal Bank Building at Second Avenue and 16th Street.

Being interested in public service, Gest was elected school superintendent of Rock Island County in 1865, serving for four years. Twice during the 1870's Gest served as City Attorney and in 1886 was elected to Congress from the 11th District of Illinois. For the last years of his life, Gest served as Circuit Court judge for Rock Island, Mercer, Henry and Whiteside counties.

A colleague of Gest, Judge E.C. Graves of Geneseo, said of Gest "...his accurate and exhaustive knowledge of the principles of law and his clear and concise presentation of same was such as to justly entitle him to be



regarded as a man with few peers and no superiors."

This home exemplifies the most common sub-type of Italianate architecture, the simple hipped roof variety. However, the floor-to-ceiling first story windows are unusual for this style and windows of this type are rare in Rock Island and most of Illinois. The bracketed porch roof is probably original, as it is doubtful that this home had a more elaborate porch.

27. Mitchell House (Nicholson Funeral Home) **(Ca. 1857) 1131 2nd Avenue**

This house with its large carriage stables was the home of P.L. (Philemon) Mitchell, his wife Catherine, and their five children. In 1856, a train pulled into town from Georgetown, Kentucky, carrying \$80,000 and two partners, P.L. Mitchell and Philander Cable, who would purchase the four year old banking firm of Cook, Sargent & Parker. The entrepreneurs proved to be quite competent in the banking business, managing to not only survive, but prosper during the Panic of 1857. In 1860, Mr. Cable's interest in the bank was purchased by Judge Cornelius Lynde, forming the more familiar Mitchell & Lynde Bank. Known today as First of America, this is the oldest continuous banking institution in Rock Island County.

P.L. Mitchell's business interests included more than banking. He had large holdings in the Rock Island Plow Works, Rock Island Children's Carriage Works,



Rock Island Buggy Company, Rock Island Stove Company, and Rock Island Glassworks, and was one of the chief stockholders in the original Moline & Rock Island Horse Railway Company. Mr. Mitchell died in 1928 in the family home, and his funeral was held there

as well. The property remained in the family and was the home of a widowed daughter, Mary Wadsworth, for many years.

Two other architectural treasures associated with the Mitchell family remain standing in Rock Island. P.L.'s son, Phil owned what is commonly known as the Mitchell House at 720 20th Street, and his grandson Ardo's family home is at 1718 21st Street, in the Highland Park Historic District.

This stunning Italian villa home is exceptionally deceptive because the tower was added during the 1870's or early 1880's. Originally, this Italianate structure possessed a simple hipped roof. Like most simple two story Italianates, the cornice line contains rather elaborate brackets as well as a decorative clover leaf type design in the brick at the 2nd story roofline in the tower. Originally, the house had a more elaborate partial-width porch and side porch.

28. Daugherty House (Ca. 1885)

1138 2nd Avenue

Louis Daugherty occupied this home just after its construction. He was an active member of the Masonic Lodges and a faithful member of First Methodist Church.



Mr. Daugherty was probably most remembered as a principal at Hawthorne School, located at Third Avenue between Seventh and Eighth Streets, which was taken down to make way for the freeway.

Although this Queen Anne home is sided, many of the spindlework features are still retained. The front porch with its millwork top and decorative, modified

chamfered columns is original. Save for the balustrade (railing), the porch retains much of the character it had when it was originally constructed.

29. Holt House (Ca. 1900)

218 12th Street

One of the earlier residents of this altered property was Orin S. Holt. Mr. Holt lived the bulk of his 71 years in the City of Rock Island having been born on the

property at the northeast corner of Second Avenue and Eighteenth Street.

Mr. Holt's activities/jobs throughout his life time were varied. At different times, he worked as a saw mill worker, a bookkeeper, a farmer and construction superintendent. Far and away Mr. Holt's greatest contribution to society was his love of history. Mr. Holt was recognized as a leading historian in this area. His local history papers were read with great interest and some of them found a place in the records of the Illinois State Historical Society, of which Mr. Holt was a member. When disagreements arose over local history, Mr. Holt's authority/knowledge was never questioned. Friends and fellow historians regarded him as an unending fountain of knowledge, most of which he could recall from memory.



The decorative applied millwork dates from the time of construction and is a hallmark of this Queen Anne house. The front porch retains some of its integrity, including the original sawtooth and circle millwork at the top of the porch and the modified chamfered columns.

30. Hinrichsen House (Ca. 1900)

222 12th Street

Early residents of this largely intact home include Theodore G. Hinrichsen and his wife, Ethel. Mr. Hinrichsen was employed as a postal carrier.

This home is a front gabled Queen Anne with decorative spindlework. Starting at the gable, note the decorative pattern made from applied ornamentation. The attic window features an elaborate muntin arrangement. The bay window is highly stylized and has dentil-like molding just above the windows. The window on the corner of the front facade has decorative millwork above it. At the center of the front facade, the picture window has a symmetrically applied ornament above and interesting patterned wood beneath.



HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOURS OF ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

- 1. Highland Park Historic District**
- 2. 20th Street Residential Area**
- 3. Downtown Rock Island**
- 4. 22nd & 23rd Street Residential Area**
- 5. Spencer Place / 19th Street Area**
- 6. Olof Z. Cervin 1918 Government Housing**
- 7. Western Downtown**
- 8. Chicago Addition**

See also Rock Island History: A Companion to the Architectural Walking Tours.

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**City of
ROCK ISLAND**



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